# Maude's Pal A Phi Beta Kappa 'Scatterbrain'

**VIVIAN, who is Maude's TV sidekick, is a lot smarter than she looks. Beneath that dizzy smile and scattered brain is a Phi Beta Kappa intellect and also a 4-time married woman.**

"I worry sometimes that people will see me only as Vivian," Rue McClanahan, who portrays her, told MIDNIGHT/GLOBE through a spokesman. "I'm really much deeper than anyone thinks."

She's an expert in archaeology, astronomy and history and she's an absolute demon at chess, as Bea Arthur, Maude herself, can attest. After six years of chess with Rue on the set, Bea is still looking for her first victory.

Rue, 43, probably will get a show of her own before she loses to Bea. Miss Arthur wants next season to be the last for "Maude," and all three networks are already in line, checkbooks in hand, ready to woo Rue.

Another of Rue's ironies is that in real life she's the equal of Maude in the matrimonial category. On the show, the strong-willed Mrs. Findlay is in her fourth marriage. Offstage, so is Rue.

After three less than perfect unions with actors, Rue diversified her interests in November and married a real estate investor, Gus Fisher, in Studio City, CA.

"Our wedding looked like something straight out of 'Maude,' " she recalled. "Norman Lear (the producer) got up and recited some poems and sentiments, and Bea was my matron of honor. A lot of the guests were from the cast and crew. The only thing missing was the cameras, and there were some of those waiting for us outside."

A native of Oklahoma, Rue came to New York from the University of Tulsa, where she had been elected to Phi Beta Kappa, which is the honor society for exceptional students.

Rue moved easily into roles of intelligent, organized women. She said she decided to become hare-brained, disorganized Vivian Harmon for two reasons.

"First, I thought Norman Lear was a man with something to say," she says, "and, second, my son, Mark, didn't like New York and had gone back to Oklahoma, and I was terribly lonely and ready for a change."

**RUE MCCLANAHAN,** who plays Vivian on the TV show "Maude," is seen here with her fourth husband, Gus Fisher. The lady is no dummy in real life.

**'I worry sometimes that people will see me only as Vivian. I'm really much deeper'.**


**Midnight GLOBE**

Vol. 24 — No. 3 July 5, 1977

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY: Midnight Publishing Corp., Ltd., EDITORIAL AND PRODUCTION OFFICES: 200 Railroad Ave., Greenwich, CT. 06830. Telephone: 203-661-2423
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NORTHERN OFFICE: 72 Lake St., Rouses Point, NY. 12979.
CENTRAL OFFICE: 33 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL. 60602.
PRODUCTION: Jacques Vandelac, Chief, Keith Graham, Rene Mauch, Normand Marceau.
DIRECTOR OF CIRCULATION: Aubrey P. Burke.
PROMOTION DIRECTOR: Mary Fallone.
SUBSCRIPTIONS: U.S. and Canada: $9.95 per year. Foreign: $11.50 per year. Address all correspondence and address corrections re subscriptions to P.O. Box 11, Rouses Point, NY. 12979.
ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE: Complete Newspaper Representatives Inc., 380 Madison Ave., New York, NY. 10017.
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: 1440 St. Catherine St. West, Suite 625, Montreal, Canada H3G 1S2. Telephone: 514-866-7744
Second class postage paid at Rouses Point, NY.
Second class mail registration number 1558.


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## Granny's Green Thumb

**Granny usually has the greenest thumb of all. Here are some tried-and-true hints from plant-loving grandmothers on how to insure healthy greenery.**

Put a dribble of soap in the plant water. It keeps bugs away and cleans the soil.

Use eggshells, coffee and tea grounds for fertilizer.

You know those sticky strips you hang to kill flies? Place them near plants to kill attacking bugs.

Turn pots half a turn every day. It provides equal light to entire plant.

Pinch a little bit of a plant off to give to a friend. It's good for the plant and good for the friend.

Stay away from exotic plants. They don't do as well as the ones you've known for years.

## Mark Lane, Investigato

**THE "ESCAPE" of James Earl Ray and his recapture look like a phony, fishy deal — part of the conspiracy to cover up the truth about the assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.**

So believes the foremost investigator of that killing, Mark Lane, former member of the New York State Legislature, director of the Citizens Committee of Inquiry, and author, with Dick Gregory, of the recent book about the King murder, "Code Name Zorro," published by Prentice-Hall.

Without even having time to figure out all the angles and what they mean, Lane, who interviewed Ray several weeks ago in prison, told MIDNIGHT/GLOBE immediately after Ray's recapture:

"Two things about the so-called escape are extremely peculiar.

"I visited that prison, Brushy Mountain state penitentiary, in Tennessee as recently as April 23 and talked to the warden. It is a maximum-maximum security prison and the warden told me he had a special watch made of Ray. Even to enter as far as the prison library, where I interviewed Ray, I had to pass two sets of armed guards and five separate sets of steel doors; when one set opens, another set is closed.

"Ray came to meet me there from the bowels of the prison and I don't know how many more guards had to check him through.

"That makes it very strange that this watched, guarded man could escape. The second thing difficult to understand is why six others chose to try to escape with him. It doesn't make sense. If one of those prisoners had made a break on his own, well, they might send out a bloodhound and a couple of officers to look for him — but with Ray, it has to be packs of bloodhounds, every available man, helicopters, the whole works."

Lane believes there is visible the shape of an FBI plot behind much that has happened to Ray.

"Every time I have seen Ray," he said, "he told me, 'If I could get the FBI file I could break the case.' " Lane contends Ray's legal defenses have been poorly prepared, with every appeal lost. Ray's former attorney was against the Congressional select committee to investigate the assassination, while Lane contends Ray's only hope is to testify before that committee.

The late FBI director, J. Edgar Hoover, nursed a hatred of Dr. King so great he attempted to force the civil rights leader to commit suicide by threatening him with scandal. This fact was revealed in hearings of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

Whoever masterminded the jailbreak plot, Ray lent himself to it out of despair, without even considering what may have been behind it. Many people believe it could have been a devious

# THE TALE EARL JAIL

*'Just before the killing Dr. King's police guard was reduced from ten men to two'*

# Overdose Of Laetrile

Laetrile — the controversial "cure" for cancer — is a killer. It contains cyanide — a deadly poison. It has killed a baby who accidentally swallowed several laetrile pills, the first on record.

An estimated 55,000 Americans are taking the Laetrile drug in hopes that it will cure their cancers. Despite repeated warnings that Laetrile is ineffective and dangerous, it's now been legalized in seven states.

"That's a tragedy," Dr. Victor Herbert of Columbia University told MIDNIGHT/GLOBE. "We haven't begun to see the amount of damage that this thing can do if it's not stopped.

"Laetrile treatment is not just quackery, it's murder."

Dr. Herbert, a professor at the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, talked to MIDNIGHT/GLOBE the day after authorities reported the first death directly attributable to Laetrile.

Elizabeth Hankin, 10-month-old daughter of Dale R. Hankin of Attica, N.Y., became Laetrile's first known victim when she somehow got hold of her father's pills and swallowed several.

She died three days later in Children's Hospital at Buffalo, N.Y., of cyanide poisoning and resulting irreversible brain damage.

## Of King's Killing, Hints FBI Behind 'Fishy' Escape

*'..where I interviewed Ray, I had to pass two sets of armed guards ..five sets of steel doors'*

# STRANGE OF JAMES RAY'S BREAK

**GLOBE EXCLUSIVE By Harry Altshuler**

**WEARY, HUNGRY AND COVERED WITH MUD,** James Earl Ray, convicted killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., is led back to prison by Warden Stonney Laine.

plan to get Ray killed and thus close his mouth forever.

But Ray was, he felt, in a hopeless position, with the select committee being attacked in sections of the press, and little hope of new investigation. Lane related: "The last time Ray talked to his brother Jerry, just a week ago, he told Jerry, 'I feel there's no hope now of getting the facts out; I'll have to try some other way.' Jerry didn't realize at the time that he might mean an escape attempt."

Lane feels that Ray, serving a 99-year term for the King murder, was framed; that there was actually a conspiracy to get rid of Dr. King and that others were involved; that the FBI at best was reluctant to pursue the case vigorously. And that the police in Memphis, where the tragic shooting occurred on April 4, 1968, were lax. He cites that just before the assassination Dr. King's police guard was reduced from 10 men to two. And at the moment of the shot, one of those two couldn't be found.

Ray's hiding place was snuffed out by a bloodhound, after three full days at large. He was found in a wooded area less than five miles from the prison, under a pile of leaves he had pulled over himself. Dirty, unshaven and hungry, he put up no resistance, saying to his captors, "Now I feel good."

# Kills Little Baby Girl

Hankin, a cancer sufferer, had obtained the drug in Mexico earlier this year, and had been treating himself with it.

Hospital authorities told MIDNIGHT/GLOBE that when Elizabeth was first admitted to an emergency room her family said "she had an overdose of vitamins."

"Laetrile is sometimes labeled Vitamin B-17, which is false," Dr. Herbert explained. "It's not a vitamin. It's a cyanogen — that is, a cyanide generator. Cyanide is deadly.

"If you take enough cyanide to kill your cancer cells, it will kill you along with them."

Dr. Elliot Ellis, the Children's Hospital physician who fought for days to save Elizabeth's life, added his own warning:

"As Laetrile is used increasingly in this country we're going to see more of this."

Laetrile was first developed in 1925 and has been plugged repeatedly as a cancer "cure".


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